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REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-13 and 22-35 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration.

Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on August 5, 2004 where it was agreed that incorporation of limitations similar to those of dependent claim 6 (and claim 25) into the independent claims would overcome the cited references. In accordance thereto, independent claims 1, 22 and 32 have been amended to emphasize various aspects of the claimed invention. Dependent claims 6 and 25 have been cancelled.

More particularly, the independent claims of the subject application have been amended to recite the agreed upon limitations of dependent claim 6. Accordingly, it is believed the herein amendments place the application in condition for allowance.

A clean version of the claims is found at pages 2-5. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments herein.

I. Rejection of claims 32-34 Under 35 U.S.C §102 (e)

Claims 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kawachi, *et al.* (U.S. 6,690,981). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, independent claim 32 has been amended to recite the limitations of dependent claim 6.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot in view of the amendment to independent claim 32. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 32 (and claim 33 which depends there from) is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-13 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-13, and 22-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over McInerney, *et al.* (U.S. 5,325,533) in view of Conner *et al.* (U.S. 5,428,792). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite subject matter the Examiner indicated as being allowable during the aforementioned telephonic interview with applicants' representative. Specifically, limitations of dependent claim 6 have been incorporated into

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independent claims 1 and 22 to further emphasize various aspects of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of independent claims 1 and 22 (and claims 5, 8-13 and 23, 24 and 26-31 which depend there from) is respectfully requested.

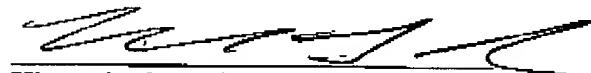
CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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